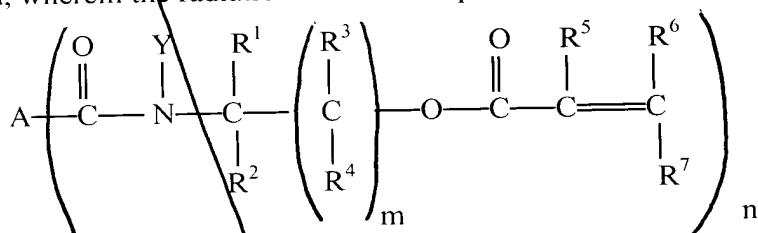


23. (Amended) Compound according to claim 2, wherein in formula (I) A represents a monovalent or polyvalent organic group derived from saturated or an unsaturated ( $C_1-C_{60}$ ) alkyl, or derived from an ( $C_6-C_{10}$ ) aryl group.

24. (Amended) Compound according to claim 2, wherein in formula (I) A represents a monovalent or polyvalent organic group derived from a polymer P.

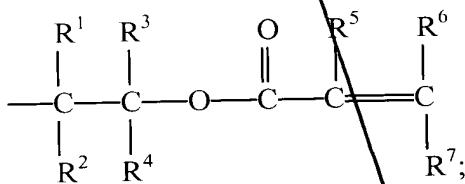
25. (Amended) A radiation curable compound comprising a mono or multi valent carboxylic acid ester of a  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  or  $\epsilon$ -hydroxy-alkylamide group containing compound, in which the carboxylic ester is derived from an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein the radiation curable compound is a compound according to formula (I):



where:

$A =$  hydrogen, or a monovalent or polyvalent organic group which is derived from a saturated or an unsaturated ( $C_1-C_{60}$ ) alkyl, from an ( $C_6-C_{10}$ ) aryl group, or a polymer P;

Y = hydrogen, an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or



$R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4$  are, identical or different, hydrogen or a linear, branched or cyclic ( $C_1-C_8$ ) alkyl chain;

R<sup>5</sup> = hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or CH<sub>2</sub>COOX;

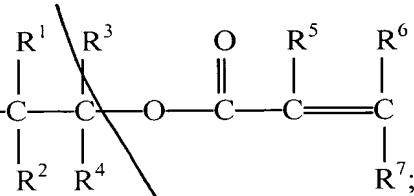
$R^6, R^7$  = hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) aryl or COOX;

X = hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>) alkyl;

$n = 1-1000$  and

m = 1-4;

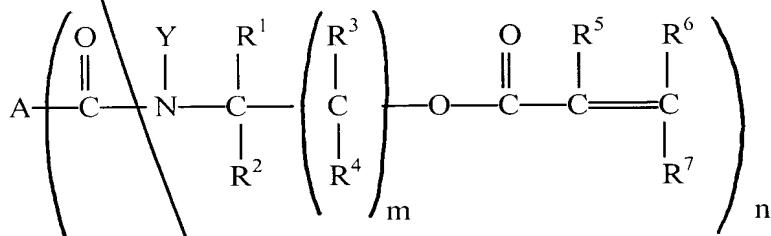
with the proviso that when  $n = 1$ ,



wherein polymer P is an addition polymer or condensation polymer.

*Sub P<sub>3</sub>*

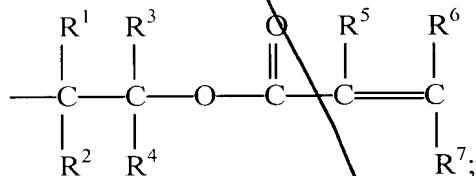
27. (Amended) A radiation curable compound comprising a mono or multi valent carboxylic acid ester of a  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  or  $\epsilon$ -hydroxy-alkylamide group containing compound, in which the carboxylic ester is derived from an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein the radiation curable compound is a compound according to formula (I):



*3*  
where:

A = a polymer P;

Y = hydrogen, an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or



$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$  are, identical or different, hydrogen or a linear, branched or cyclic ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ ) alkyl chain;

$\text{R}^5$  = hydrogen, ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ ) alkyl,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  or  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOX}$ ;

$\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$  = hydrogen, ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ ) alkyl, ( $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ ) aryl or  $\text{COOX}$ ;

X = hydrogen or ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ ) alkyl;

n = 1-1000 and

m = 1-4;

wherein polymer P is an addition polymer or condensation polymer.

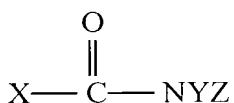
In the paragraph under the heading "Response to Arguments" on page 4 of the Action, it is suggested that patentability is not established merely because the compounds disclosed in US 202 include "urethane linkages." More particularly, the Examiner urges that when Polymer P in the present claims is a cellulosic polymer urethane linkages will result from reaction of hydroxyl groups with the isocyanate group.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present claims are directed to a radiation curable compound comprising a carboxylic acid ester of a hydroxy-alkylamide group containing compound. The compound is represented by formula (I) shown in, e.g., claim 1. Therefore, by definition, the "reaction product" of the amide group in the parentheses with a polymer P could not result in a urethane linkage since that would eliminate the alkyl amide group.

The reaction between an amide and an  $\alpha,\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid will not result in a product with a urethane linkage at the position where "A" is attached to the carbonyl group C=O.

An amide group has the basic structure:



wherein X represents a hydrogen atom or an organic group. When X represents an organic group it will be connected to the neighboring carbon atom (the C of C=O) via another carbon atom and not via an oxygen atom; an X-OC(=O)NYZ group is a urethane compound and not, an amide group containing compound.

In the above representation, "X" corresponds to "A" in formula (I) and "A" may represent a polymer P. However, whether A represents polymer P or one of the other choices from claim 1 (hydrogen or monovalent or polyvalent organic group) claim 1 and claim 26 still call for an ester of an amide group containing compound.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has erred in concluding that the present claims are anticipated by Nason US 202 because Nason does not disclose radiation curable compounds containing amide groups to which a polymer is bonded.

Specifically, all that is disclosed in Nason US 202 are cellulose acetate carboxylate urethanes. According to this patent, free hydroxyl groups are reacted with an isocyanatoacrylate to produce the cellulose acetate carboxylate urethane (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 65-67). When an isocyanatoacrylate represented by the formula at col. 3, lines 1-8, is reacted with an hydroxyl group, the following reaction will result (as indicated by the Examiner):